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INDIAN ARCHAEOLOGY 1974-75

—A REVIEW

EDITED BY
B. K. THAPAR
Director General
Archaeological Survey of India



ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
NEW DELHI
1979

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PREFACE

This annual *Review*, like its predecessors, incorporates matter on the archaeological activities in the country during the year 1974-75. As usual the material has come from diverse sources, and I gratefully acknowledge the cooperation of all those whose contributions have been included here. As already known, these have been done without making any basic changes in respective facts and interpretations thereof.

I heartily thank my colleagues in the Archaeological Survey of India who have helped me in bringing out this issue within a very short time.

New Delhi
1 May 1979

B. K. THAPAR

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INDIAN ARCHAEOLOGY 1974-75

—A REVIEW

I. EXPLORATIONS AND EXCAVATIONS

ANDHRA PRADESH

1. EXPLORATION IN DISTRICTS ADILABAD AND KARIMNAGAR.—During the course of his exploration, Shri Thakur Raja Ram Singh, an advocate of Peddapalli, discovered several Stone Age sites in the mid-Godavari valley.

Early Stone Age tools were found at Naspur (locality 1) in Luxetipet Taluk, District Adilabad and Godavari-khani (localities 1 and 2), Medpalli-Malkapur (localities 2 and 3), Ramgundam-Buchiahpalli (locality 1) and from Anthergaon to Manthani, a stretch of 35 km from west to east and 20 km north to south touching the Ramgiri hills (Raki ranges), along the southern bank of the Godavari in Peddapalli Taluk, District Karimnagar. The tools are mostly made on quartzite and rarely on chert. The tool-types (pl. I A) include a variety of handaxes, including arrow and spear-pointed tools and picks, cleavers, ovates, discoids, flakes and scrapers on flakes. Occasionally, rostrocarinates and unifacial and bifacial pebble tools were also found. The length of the handaxes range from 8 to 20 cm.

Middle Stone Age tools were found at Naspur (locality 2) and adjacent villages in Luxetipet Taluk, District Adilabad, and Godavari-khani (localities 1 to 3 and 5), Medpalli-Malkapur (localities 4 to 6 and 9), Ramgundam-Buchiahpalli (localities 2 and 6), Goelwada, Sundilla, Kannal (Bodagutta) and Gundaram in Peddapalli Taluk District Karimnagar. The tool-types include cores and flakes with or without prepared platforms, flake-blades, a variety of scrapers—round, biconvex, convex, concave, side, end, tanged—knives or cutting tools, notches, noses, unifacial and bifacial points, borers, awls, spear-heads, arrow-heads with or without tang and miniature handaxes and rarely burins. The intentionally-thinned butt ends of the points and spearheads indicate that they were hafted.

Fossils including a partly broken jaw bones of *Bos namadicus* and a piece of *Serves antler* were discovered at Gundaram and Malkapur.

Amongst the many Late Stone Age sites located during the exploration, mention may be made of Thakkallapalli (Bugga, localities 1 and 2 and Sabbitham near Goundam, a seasonal waterfall in Ramgiri hills. The microliths are made of varieties of chert, chalcedony, agate, carnelian and jasper. The blade cores are of three types: conical based, flat based and oblique based. The assemblage includes primary flakes chips, parallel-sided blades, blunted backed blades, including lunates variety of points in high proportion and occasionally trapezes, triangles and burins. There are but a few scrapers in the assemblage. However, in a few sites like Bugga (locality 1) and Bodagutta the pebble and core scrapers were found to be smaller in size than the microliths. No pottery is associated with these sites.



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2. EXPLORATION IN DISTRICT GUNTUR.—Shri I. K. Sarma of the South-eastern Circle of the Archaeological Survey of India¹, assisted by Dr T. V. G. Sastry and Shri D. Hanumantha Rao, explored the hillocks towards the west of the village Viakuntapuram, and collected early historical pottery such as black-and-red, fine black-slipped, red-slipped wares, and the Rouletted Wares. Within the fields on way to Amaravati, a number of megalithic cairn-circles with or without cist-chambers and capstones were noticed. Megalithic Black-and-red Ware sherds and pieces of bones were collected from a transepted cist.

Shri I. K. Sarma, assisted by Sarvashri D. Hanumantha Rao and K. S. Mani, also located an extensive, early historical mound, of 5 to 6m in height, at Juna-Chundur. Large quantities of bricks, black-and-red, red-slipped and black-slipped wares, bone pieces, lead and copper coins of late Satavahana period were obtained from the site. A temple of Venugopala, in the centre of the village, having early *adhishthana*, raised on dressed and neatly moulded lateritic blocks, recalling the early Salankayana temples at Peddavegi in West Godavari, and loose sculptures such as Vinayaka, Trimurti-plaque, Nandi, etc., of red sandstone, a *linga* with *yonī*, and Venugopala belonging to *circa* tenth century A.D. were also noticed at this site.

3. EXCAVATION AT AMARAVATI, DISTRICT GUNTUR.—The South-eastern Circle of the Survey resumed (*Indian Archaeology 1973-74—A Review*, p. 4)² excavation at Amaravati *stupa-site* (pl. IB). The work was directed by Shri I. K. Sarma, assisted by Shri D. Hanumantha Rao, the objectives being: (i) to link up stratigraphically the eastern *ayaka* and the drum of the *Mahachaitya* with the trenches excavated earlier; and (ii) to know the structural phases of the *Mahachaitya*, particularly its nature during the pre-Satavahana periods.

The excavation revealed that the core of the *stupa* contained successive earth fillings made during the last two centuries out of indiscriminate diggings. A huge pit was found right through the core of the *stupa* to a depth of 4.75 m. It may be recalled here that when Burgess (1887) visited for the second time, he noticed that the *stupa-site* had become a big tank. However, the four *ayaka* platforms and part of the *pradakshinapatha* of the Satavahana period (Period III) appear to be comparatively undisturbed.

4. EXCAVATION AT GOLCONDA, DISTRICT HYDERABAD.—In continuation of last year's work (1973-74, p. 5), the Department of Archaeology and Museums, Government of Andhra Pradesh, excavated a mound on the western side of the Summer House.

Excavation revealed a residential complex having a central hall (15.65 x 9.00 m) with entrances on south and east, and attached with five rooms on the southern side. On the eastern side a kitchen with attached bathroom was exposed. Another hall (11.00 x 3.85 m) was exposed on the western side of the central hall. A small road running north-south and joining the main road exposed earlier, was unearthed in the close proximity of this complex.

Another house-complex was exposed from a low lying mound on the north of Summer House. This complex is enclosed by walls running north-south on the east and west, the exposed length being 36 m. The complex had a central hall (3.35 x 2.90 m) with a courtyard and two rooms (3.05 x 2.50 m and 2.90 x 2.50 m) on either side. The rooms were

¹ The Archaeological Survey of India is referred to in the following pages as the 'Survey'.

² This publication is referred to in the following pages by the year only.



EXPLORATIONS AND EXCAVATIONS

internally connected by small door-ways. At the rear end, on the south-eastern corner of the complex were unearthed a small kitchen, bathroom and latrine which were connected to a drain partly covered by stone-slabs. The drain, in turn, was connected to a soak-pit. At the centre of the complex two cisterns (1.80 x 1.25 x 0.85 m and 1.85 x 1.55 x 0.90m), prefacing the courtyard were laid bare. One of them seems to have been used as a fountain. A conduit pipe which fed the tank and being connected to another cistern near the well was also traced.

Yet another residential complex, in the same alignment and little away from the above one, was also laid bare. It had large central room and two adjacent rooms. Two halls in front of the central room were also unearthed. A passage and flight of steps were also exposed.

A little away from the above complex, a wall running zigzag in plan for about 50 m with pillar-bases at regular intervals of 585 m was exposed. This might have been a horse stable, as plenty of horse-shoes were recovered from the area. At one corner of this wall were two rooms which might have served as guard-rooms.

One more residential complex was unearthed towards north of the throne palace. It consisted of three rooms with a verandah. Two small platforms were exposed in front of the verandah. This structure had been plastered and a good number of stucco remains with designs were also recovered. A conduit pipe line, running to a length of 5.55 m, was exposed in close proximity of this structure.

Noteworthy finds recovered from the site include: copper coins and needles; iron poniard, axe, arrow-heads, scissors, knives; terracotta elephants; copper and silver rings, inset with carnelian and jasper stones; beads of faience, paste and glass with segmented, gaddooned, cylindrical and disc types; gamesmen made of ivory; and glass bangles. A rich repertoire of pottery, including paper-thin variety and Celedon Ware represented in types like chalices, dishes, etc., and a few with Chinese script, was collected. A miniature plaque, carved with two Brahmanical deities, is another noteworthy find.

5. EXCAVATION AT DHULIKATTA, DISTRICT KARIMNAGAR.—The Department of Archaeology and Museums, Government of Andhra Pradesh, excavated Dhulikatta and encountered a baked brick wall of six courses, running north-south, built over rubble foundation, in the trench across the mud fortification. Another wall, running parallel to the latter and having a width of 1.6 m and of exposed length of 5.2 m was encountered in another trench. The size of the bricks was 53 x 30 x 10 cm. In a trench in the middle of the mound, a wall with five courses was encountered at a depth of 80 cm.

The structures can be dated to Satavahana period on the basis of pottery including black-and-red, dark red and red wares, and two Satavahana coins, carnelian bead, iron knife and a nail, etc., recovered from the excavation. However, a few microliths such as cores, blades and flakes were encountered below a sterile layer which underlies the Satavahana deposit.

5. EXCAVATION AT KADAMBAPUR, DISTRICT KARIMNAGAR.—The Department of Archaeology and Museums, Government of Andhra Pradesh, conducted excavation at Kadambapur, an extensive megalithic site, 8 km north of Peddabankur situated on the bank of the river Maneru, a tributary of the river Godavari. Five megaliths and a small area of the habitation site were excavated, the results of which are as follows:

Megalith I is a pit-burial oriented east-west, cut to a depth of 2 m and capped by a huge capstone measuring 7'0x4'0x0"4 m. It is marked by double stone-circles, with



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the outer measuring 9.75 m and the inner 7.60 m in diameter and having 25 and 21 large lateritic boulders respectively. Cairn packing inside the circles was raised to a height of 1 m. A damaged skull, a few fragments of longer bones such as, femur, tibia, fibula, etc., were seen arranged in roughly articulated form. Funerary pottery was interred in three levels, bigger red ware vases in the upper, ring-stand with shallow dish in black ware in the middle and smaller pots such as bowls and dishes in the lower level. Two javelins, the larger one measuring 1.25 m in length, were kept parallel to the skeletal remains. A curved dagger with copper hilt was kept near the skull at a corner of the pit.

Megalith II was similar to the above one in construction, except in having a smaller capstone. Two skulls, a mandible and few long bones were interred in roughly articulated condition. Two conch-shells, were seen deposited near the skulls. A small dagger was placed near one of the skulls and a pair of javelins of 85 cm in length were placed over the pottery. Excepting the skulls, all the other bones were covered with funeral pottery. The pottery recovered includes black, dull-red and red wares, represented by vases, hour-glass type ring-stands, etc. The Black-and-red Ware was conspicuous by its absence.

Megalith III (pl. II) was a pit-burial, covered by a huge capstone, measuring 3.35 x 1.83 x 0.46 m. The burial was bound by a stone-circle (7.60 m in diameter) of 19 lateritic boulders containing cairn packing. The pit was rectangular (2.3 x 1.0 m) on plan, oriented north-south, dug to a depth of 1.10 m and filled with lateritic *morum* and disintegrated rock. On the pit floor lay a complete skeleton over 8 cm thick soft clay, with the head towards north supported by small stones, one each on either side. Two gold wire earrings were found flanking the mandible. A dagger (28.5 x 5 cm) was found thrust into the clavicle which was slightly dislodged from the original position. The phalange bones of both hands were found pushed into two bottom-cut conches. It is interesting to note that the right tibia and fibula, placed on stones, were found cut obliquely and the heel bones missing. The pottery recovered from the burial includes: two handmade flat based, ill fired, dull red ware jars; seven dull red ware ring-stands with Black-and-red Ware funnel-shaped chalices, kept over the pelvic bone; and Black-and-red Ware bowls. It was observed that altogether thirty-three pots had been kept all over the body leaving only the skulls open.

Megalith IV was a disturbed port-holed cist, bound by a stone-circle and cairn packing. The extant northern orthostat was provided with a port-hole in the middle, closed by a lateritic slab. This secondary articulated burial, over a bed of clay and *morum* spread over a floor-slab, yielded two skulls and other long bones. A crescentic tanged battle-axe and a knife were found kept near the skulls. All the pottery recovered from the burial is wheel-made.

Megalith V was similar to Megaliths I, II and III, except that the skeletal remains including two skulls were heaped without articulation. Seven iron implements, such as javelin, spearhead, arrowhead, dagger, knife and a terracotta disc were recovered. Pottery recovered from the burial includes: Black-and-red Ware dishes and carinated deep bowl; hour-glass type ring-stands; black ware vase and a funnel-shaped chalice; and storage jars in red ware.

Excavation at the habitation site yielded from the lower levels, red-slipped ware with incised decoration, dull red ware, conical bowls and coarse Black-and-red Ware. Last mentioned ware continues to occur in the upper levels along with red ware represented by lid-cum-bowl.

Some of the rock-shelters situated on the slopes of the hills were also tapped and only a few sherds of coarse red and dull red wares were encountered.



EXPLORATIONS AND EXCAVATIONS

7. EXCAVATION AT PEDDABANKUR, DISTRICT KARIMNAGAR.—In continuation of last year's work here the Department of Archaeology and Museums, Government of Andhra Pradesh, conducted excavation at Peddabankur with a view to: (i) tracing the western wall of the Enclosure III; (ii) connecting stratigraphically the drain and wells with the Enclosure II; and (iii) exposing a brick structure adjacent to the main road.

In the excavation, the western wall of the Enclosure III was exposed and was found that the enclosure is rectangular in plan (41.6 x 4.3 m), with entrances (7.5 m) on north and south. The width of the walls of the enclosure is 1.70 m. The well built of wedge-shaped bricks, encountered earlier, is in the north-eastern corner of the enclosure. Even today, it is believed to be auspicious to have a well or a water source inside the enclosure on the north-eastern corner which is known as *Lakshmisthana*. An oval structure (11.60 x 5.35 m) with an entrance (2.0 m) on the west, at the centre of the enclosure, was also unearthed. This structure seems to have had brick superstructure and tiled roof. Two small brick paved cisterns, hearths, iron slags and objects encountered in this structure indicate that it might have been used as an iron smelting and forging factory.

A circular brick platform 3.15 m in diameter, raised over a rubble basement, was unearthed in Enclosure II. Adjacent to this platform, a floor made of rubble and gravel, embedded with iron slags and a rectangular brick-built cistern with floor made of rammed lateritic *morum* were also exposed. The structure appears to be a blast furnace.

Excavation in the area west of Enclosure III laid bare: rubble foundation of an east-west oriented oval house; two hearths built of bricks outside the house; a small rectangular platform, probably base of a silo, inside the house; a brick platform fixed with flat stone probably for washing, outside the house; and a circular rubble basement embedded with iron slags and a sandstone for sharpening iron implements. The entire complex may belong to the late Satavahana period, on the basis of pottery and other antiquities recovered from the area in the excavation.

Digging in the area near Karimnagar-Peddapalli road, revealed two walls running east-west and north-south, measuring 9.85 and 3.75 m respectively in length.

Antiquities recovered from the excavation include: nails, rivets, rings, knives, chisels, hooks, hoes, sickles, arrow heads of iron; rings, bangles, beads, knives, chisels, hooks, hoes, sickles, arrow heads of copper; bone objects such as, stylus, gamesmen; stone objects like saddle querns, pestles, dabbers; beads of semi-precious stones and terracotta; terracotta human and animal figurines; mother goddess types modelled in kaolin; and Satavahana potin coins and a hoard of thirty punch-marked coins, found in a miniature pot of black-and-red ware. However, the important discovery is of a sealing with a legend*sa Mahathalavarasa Vijasamikasa Siva Sadha*, written in late Satavahana Brahmi characters, inscribed in circle, embossed with a horse in the centre. On the reverse is a negative imprint of a five-stringed rope tied to a bamboo stick. Pottery recovered include black-and-red, red polished, black polished and dull red wares, represented by storage jars, globular vases, carinated deep bowls, *lotas*, lid-cum-bowls, miniature pots, dishes, etc.

8. EXPLORATION IN DISTRICT KRISHNA.—Dr T. V. G. Sastri of the South-eastern Circle of the Survey found Middle Palaeolithic tools, a ground stone axe of trap and pottery comprising Black-and-red and Rouletted Wares from the vicinity of the famous Buddhist site at Allur.

9. EXCAVATION AT SATANIKOTA, DISTRICT KURNOOL.—The Department of Archaeology and Museums, Government of Andhra Pradesh, conducted trial digging at the site.



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The excavation yielded pottery including red ware represented by bowls with flared rim, storage jars, vases with constricted neck, and black-and-red ware dishes, etc., belonging to the Satavahana period.

10. EXCAVATION AT GOIXATHAGUDI, DISTRICT MAHBUBNAGAR.—In continuation of the last season's work (1973-74, p. 6), the Department of Archaeology and Museums, Government of Andhra Pradesh, continued excavation at the site with a view to: (i) exposing completely the brick temples situated on southern flank of the Mound IV; and (ii) establishing chronological sequence of the temples.

Temple 1 consists of a *garbhagriha*, a pillared *mandapa* and an entrance porch on the east. Temple 2 had originally only a *garbhagriha* facing east and a pillared *mandapa* with entrance on the north. Subsequently, another *mandapa*, raised on stone plinth, was added on the eastern side of the earlier one, with entrance on the east. Later, flight of steps were provided to the second *mandapa*. Further, a chamber was constructed adjacent to the second *mandapa*, on the northern side, probably for housing temple property. However, a clear chronological sequence could not be established, and further work is necessary.

11. EXPLORATION IN DISTRICT NELLORE.—The Department of Archaeology and Museums, Government of Andhra Pradesh, conducted exploration in the District and brought to light a site yielding Lower and Middle Palaeolithic tools at Ambapuram, an Early Historical site at Inalapadu yielding red, black-and-red and red slipped wares, and an inscription dated A.D. 1578, of Vijayanagara period at Anantasagaram.

12. EXPLORATION IN DISTRICT PRAKASAM.—During the course of exploration, Shri B. Raja Rao of the South-eastern circle of the Survey discovered a Lower and Middle Palaeolithic site on the banks of an ancient Sagileru nullah. The tools, made on quartzite and showing patination, comprise Acheulian handaxes, predominantly made of flakes, but a few retaining pebble cortex.

The Department of Archaeology and Museums, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh conducted exploration in the District and brought to light: a site yielding burnished grey ware and early historical pottery at Taticharla; a mound with exposed brick structures, probably a part of a *stupa*; a temple belonging to Kakatiya period at Racharla; a Chalukyan temple at Daddavada; and a temple of pre-Vijayanagara or Vijayanagara period at Dupadu.

13. EXCAVATION AT CHANDAVARAM, DISTRICT PRAKASAM.—In continuation of the last year's work (1973-74, p. 7), the Department of Archaeology and Museums, Government of Andhra Pradesh, excavated the site at Chandavaram.

The excavation revealed that the drum of the *mahastupa* had been expanded twice to bring it to the extant dimension by providing a circular wall around the existing one leaving in between a gap, filled with rubble packing and coursed brick work. Both the concentric walls were provided with grooves on the top for fixing limestone slabs carved with Buddhist themes in Amaravati idiom. *Ayaka* platforms were provided to the *stupa* in the third phase of the construction. Flight of plastered steps leading up to a wall with railing, decorated with pilasters and encircling the *pradakshinapatha* of the *stupa* was exposed.

Excavation in Mound IA revealed monastic establishment with an apsidal structure, and that in Mound III exposed completely the wheel-shaped *stupa*.

The finds recovered from the excavation include: stone slabs carved with *stupa*; floral designs emanating from *harmika* and *purna-kumbha*; Naga Machilinda; Bodhi tree; and



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EXPLORATIONS AND EXCAVATIONS

devotees. The Rouletted Ware, dull-red and black wares, and lead coins with the symbols of horse and bull on the obverse constitute other finds.

ASSAM

14. EXCAVATION AT GAUHATI, DISTRICT GAUHATI.—The Department of Archaeology, University of Gauhati, conducted excavation at Gauhati, near Assam Engineering College, known as Dumar Jhar, wherefrom a boat-shaped terracotta object, measuring 2.50 m in length, 0.65 m in width and 0.33 m depth, was obtained. The stem end of the object is 50 cm. The helm of the object ends abruptly, unlike in other two examples which were exposed earlier, in which the helm ended in a narrow strip. Both sides of the object seem to have been connected internally by a bridge, the broken pieces of which were recovered from inside the object. Several such boats have been encountered in greater Gauhati on the southern bank of the river Brahmaputra, on the slopes between the hillocks and the marshy land. There is no evidence to establish either the relationship between these objects and the fishing community or their date. The excavated object is now housed in the Anthropology Department of the Gauhati University.

BIHAR

15. EXCAVATION AT ANTICHAK, DISTRICT BHAGALPUR.—In continuation of the last year's work (1973-74, pp.8-9), the Vikramshila Excavation Project, under Dr B. S. Verma, assisted by Sarvashri S. G. Saran, A. Mukherjee, Buddhi Singh and Tarun Kumar Shrivastava, resumed excavation with a view to locating the ancient Vikramshila *mahavihara*.

Altogether sixty trenches were laid out: (i) on the northern mound, outside the monastery complex, 100 m north of the northern gate; (ii) in the north-eastern corner of the monastery; and (iii) in the area between the central shrine and the northern gate in the inner courtyard of the monastery. Besides, a few more trenches were laid out to clear the debris to expose the north-eastern corner of the main shrine.

Excavation in the trenches on the northern mound exposed structures of three phases (pl. III A). The structures of the first phase appear to be contemporary with the early phase of the monastery. It was found that the bricks of the earlier phase had been reused in the structures of the later phase. The structures of the second phase, however, are represented by small shrines with a verandah and sometimes a platform. The walls of some of the structures are found to be decorated with niches and stone pedestals (pl. III B). The floors of the shrines are made of rammed *surkhi* and lime, probably plastered with a thin coat of red ochre. The third phase is represented by shoddy walls constructed of stone rubble and bricks, probably robbed from the nearby main monastery. Curiously enough a few Buddhist deities like Mahakala and goddess Tara (pl. IV B) were found to have been used as building material for the construction of the walls. A number of sculptures both of the Brahmanical and Buddhist deities were recovered from the excavation. The former include Mahishasuramardini, Chamunda, Uma-Mahesvara (pl. IV A), Vishnu, Seshasayi Vishnu, Manasa (pl. V C), Yama Ganesa (pl. V A) and Surya, while the latter consisted of mutilated Avalokitesvara (pl. V D), Maitreya, Shadakshari-Lokesvara (pl. VB), Simhanada-Lokesvara, Avalokitesvara, Bodhisattva-Padmapani and goddess Tara (pl. VI), Avalokitesvara, intricately-carved in black basalt, comparable to the one found at Somapura *mahavihara* and bronze image of Buddha (pl. VII A). Another interesting find was a corner-stone carved with two lions having one common head. Other notable finds

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include: *stupas* of varying sizes in stone; door-sills; sculptures; door-jambs (pl. IV C); railings (pl. VIIB); pedestals; a small bronze figure of a pig with seven sucklings a trapeze-shaped hollow amulet gold-leaf, embossed with either a figure of some deity or floral motif, on the sides; a small lunate-shaped gold piece, weighing about 5 grams; a gold ring; a number of terracotta animal figurines (pl. VIII A, G and D); terracotta female figurines (pl. IX D) and miscellaneous terracotta objects, including a rattle (pl. VIIIB); three metal seals (pl. VIII E and F) and three silver coins.

Excavation in the north-eastern corner of the monastery exposed the main drain (80 cm wide and 90 cm high) of the monastery, built of stone slabs, and running below the flooring of the monastic cells. After 6-10 m it takes an angular turn to prevent the erosion of the corner and emerges outside the boundary wall. Important finds of the area include iron objects, stone beads and a few terracotta sealings (pl. IX A-C).

Excavation in the trenches between the central shrine and northern gate (pl. X) unearthed a disturbed pathway, connecting the two. It was found paved with flat bricks and probably plastered with rammed *surkhi* and lime.

16. EXCAVATION AT CHAMPA, DISTRICT BHAGALPUR.—The Department of Ancient Indian History and Archaeology, University of Patna, resumed the excavation at Champa for the fifth season. The work was directed jointly by Sarvashri B. Narayan and A. K. Singh, under the supervision of Prof. B. P. Sinha, and assisted by Sarvashri B. Kumar and S. K. Kaviraj, the objectives being: (i) to examine the deposit underlying the mud-rampart of Phase 1, in the trench CMP-IB; (ii) to ascertain the extent of the mud-rampart on the western end; and (iii) to expose the structural phases in CPM-IM where excavation had brought to light two parallel brick walls with a brick drain in between associated with the late Northern Black Polished Ware phase.

In addition to the water-logged trench CPM-IB, a new trench CPM-IK, measuring 5 x 4 m, was taken on the western side of CPM-IJ after leaving a baulk of 3 m. The trench CPM-IM, partly dug during 1972-73 season, was further extended by 2 m and 4 m on the eastern and western sides respectively. The digging at CMP-IB, where recourse had to be taken to pumping-set for draining out sub-soil water, revealed a 2-m deposit of dirty brownish and black soil, which in turn was found resting over the natural soil of yellowish hue mixed with ganget. The natural soil was dug up to a depth of 1.60 m beyond which digging was abandoned due to the gushing of sub-soil water. The overlying deposit above the natural soil yielded significantly a fairly large number of black-and-red ware sherds of coarse fabric. The pottery types include bowls and vases with flared rim, similar to the chalcolithic black-and-red ware from Sonapur and Chirand, and indicate the earliest occupational culture on this site prior to the N.B.P. Ware phase.

The excavation at CMP-IK revealed that the inner slope of the mud-rampart of Phase 2 did not continue. The lower levels, however, yielded N.B.P. Ware associated with a number of terracotta plaques of typical Sunga style and a few iron objects. Amongst the terracotta plaques, mention may be made of: a figurine of Sakti with *ayudhas* shown on the right side of the head; the feet, possibly of Lakshmi, standing on lotus petal; lotus design; and a bejewelled male figure. The occupational deposit of the Gupta period was found to overlie this stratum. The structural remains, ascribable to the Gupta period, include a brick wall, measuring 2.50 m long and 0.40 m broad, running north to south in the western section with seven extant courses of bricks, and another wall, measuring 1.70 m long and 0.30 m wide, running east to west in the north-western corner of the trench. The latter wall had two arms cutting at right angles; the eastern arm was 0.50 m long and 0.33 m



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wide. In the north-eastern corner of the trench, yet another wall having only traces of it due to disturbance, was noticed near the eastern section. It runs east to west up to a distance of 0.90 m and then takes a turn to the north up to a distance of 1.40 m and runs into the western section. Associated finds of the period include: terracotta mould for making human heads; stone mould, bearing symbolic marks for making ear ornaments; stone beads; and an inscribed seal with perforation. Earlier excavation had yielded similar stone jewellery moulds (stone) belonging to the early N.B.P. Ware phase. Thus, it can be said that Champa continued to be a jewellery manufacturing centre down to the Gupta period. The digging at CMP-IM revealed three periods of construction ascribable mainly to the Middle and Late phases of the N.B.P. Ware and the post-Gupta period. The first period of construction is represented by a terracotta ring-well of 70 cm diameter of two courses, a brick well of 201 courses with 0.96 m diameter, and a brick wall of 13 courses running north to south. Associated finds with this phase included: the rim of a copper utensil; copper trinklet; stone weights; terracotta fox; iron dagger; stone and glass beads; bone arrowheads; and terracotta earlobes. The late N.B.P. Ware phase is represented by a brick wall of four courses, running north to south in the eastern section. The wall was 2.60 m long and 0.33 m wide with an offset of 0.06m. The structure associated with this period at the western end is a wall running north to south. Antiquities of the late N.B.P. Ware phase included: terracotta pendant; stone and glass beads; terracotta spoon; terracotta plaques decorated with human and floral designs (pl. XI A); piece of crucible; bone arrowheads; and terracotta earlobes. The general characteristics of the N.B.P. Ware from the Middle and Late phases, however, remained unchanged. Antiquities associated with the Gupta level included: terracotta forehead (pl. XIB); ivory object (pl. XIG); stone and glass beads; terracotta horned animal; glass bangle; copper antimony rods; and iron nail. Antiquities and other finds from the post-Gupta levels include terracotta and stone beads and terracotta bracelets.

17. EXPLORATION IN DISTRICT BHOJPUR.—Shri Birendra Nath of the Mid-eastern Circle of the Survey, during the course of exploration discovered an ancient mound at Chausa on the bank of the river Karamnasa and collected sherds of the black-and-red and black wares.

18. EXPLORATION IN DISTRICT GAYA.—During the course of the exploration, Shri Birendra Nath of the Mid-eastern Circle of the Survey, discovered on the top of the Pretshila hills, near Gaya, a ruined temple and a number of sculptures, such as Ganesa, Siva and Parvati, standing Vishnu, Uma-Mahesvara, Buddha in *bhumisparsa mudra*, votive *stupa* and three stone pieces with inscriptions, probably in Pali language, on the Brahmajoni hills at Gaya. Further, he noticed several stone sculptures such as standing Vishnu, Karttikeya, Mahishasuramardini, Bodhisattva, votive *stupa* and two inscriptions in proto-Bengali script.

Shri P. K. Sharan of the Mid-eastern Circle of the Survey in the course of his exploration discovered an extensive urn-burial site at Dharawat. The site also yielded black-and-red ware and Northern Black Polished Ware in five fabrics. Besides, a number of stone sculptures, such as Surya, Uma-Mahesvara, Karttikeya, Vishnu and Ganesa were noticed. Buddha and Bodhisattvas, made of black stone, belonging to the early medieval period were also found at Bhanebiga, Dharanai Sumera, Dharawat, Kachanama, Korama, Ner, Suppi Chhatiana and Umata. The sculptures on the top of the hill at Baraber and Kanvadol were also re-examined.



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Shri Naseem Akhtar of Gaya Museum, Department of Archaeology and Museums, Government of Bihar, in the course of his exploration, collected sherds of the chalcolithic black-and-red ware and black-slipped ware at Bodh Gaya. He also collected a few sherds of the N.B.P. Ware of fine fabric, associated with black-and-red ware at Jaugambari, near the Vishnupada temple in old Gaya.

19. EXPLORATION IN DISTRICT MADHUBANI.—During the course of his exploration, Shri B. S. Jha of the Mid-eastern Circle of the Survey, discovered a number of medieval sites along the banks of the rivers Kamala and Bachharaja. Besides, he noticed several sculptures, such as Vishnu, Ganesa, *ekdmukha* Siva *linga*, crowned Buddha belonging to late Pala period, at Berautpur, Jayanagar and Manpaur.

20. EXCAVATION AT BALIRAJGARH, DISTRICT MADHUBANI.—In continuation of the previous season's work (1972-73 p. 3), Dr Sita Ram Roy, assisted by Sarvashri Mohan Choudhary, Durganand Mishra (Sudha), Manzar Hasan, N. G. Ghosh, L. P. Singh and R. P. Singh, of the Department of Archaeology and Museums, Government of Bihar, resumed the excavation.

A 5-m square trench was laid out adjacent to the earlier one, and was excavated to a depth of 4.10 m. The natural soil, however, could not be reached due to high water-table. Nevertheless, excavation revealed two periods of occupation, as noticed earlier.

Period I (second century B.C. to second century A.D.) is represented by a residential structure, being the continuation of the one encountered in the last season's work. It is associated with antiquities of the Sunga period, such as terracotta plaques (pl. XII A) with male and female figures, and terracotta animal figurines. Other important antiquities (pl. XIIB) of the period are terracotta wheels, fragments of terracotta toy-carts, copper antimony rods and iron nails, besides beads of various shapes and sizes made of semi-precious stones. The ceramic industry of the period is dominated by red ware represented by vases, troughs, spouted vessels, vases and pans with handle, perforated jars, lid-cum-bowls and lid-cum-vases with few specimens showing mat and reed impressions. Some of the troughs have rope-band design on shoulder. The roof-tiles show a circular hole in the centre and a deep groove on one side for securing the other side. On the evidence of a few sherds of the N.B.P. Ware and grey ware from the lowest levels, the period may be dated to the second century B.C.

Period II (second to sixth century A.D.) represented by a deposit of about 1.65 m, yielded terracotta animal figurines, stone beads, terracotta beads and balls. Besides, all the types and wares of Period I, except the N.B.P. Ware and grey ware, continued during this period.

21. EXCAVATION AT RAJGIR, DISTRICT NALANDA.—Shri Vijaya Kant Mishra, assisted by Sarvashri P. K. Sharan and A. N. Roy, of the Mid-eastern Circle of the Survey, excavated the site proposed for the construction of the temple of the Svetamber Jains, to the east of the New Fort and adjacent to the Dormitory at Rajgir and brought to light three cultural periods.

The excavation revealed at the exposed lowest level of Period I (third-second century B.C.), a rubble stone wall, measuring 1.78x0.36 m, showing evidences of firing and a rammed floor of two phases, overlain by a cairn-circle, oval in plan, made of rubbles of small to medium size, 5'50 m in diameter. The maximum extant width of the cairn-wall is 44 cm. The cairn-circle enclosed a damaged urn-burial. The urn is of dull red ware of



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medium fabric and contained loose greyish soil mixed with ash and charcoal. Other material found in the urn included a few charred bone pieces, a bead of banded agate and an uninscribed rectangular cast coin. The associated finds outside the urn included terracotta objects, terracotta and stone beads, bone pins of various sizes, iron nails and knife and a few N.B.P. Ware sherds.

Period II (second-first century B.C.) is characterized by the occurrence of a terracotta ring-well and two rubble walls of 4.25 x 0.44 m and 3.22 x 0.36 m respectively. The ceramic industry of the period is represented by red ware of medium to coarse fabric, coarse-grained dull red ware and red ware with deep red slip. The usual types are bowls of various sizes, lipped bowl, knob, vase, spouted vessels, dish, *handi*, basin, etc. The notable antiquities are copper cast coins, terracotta head of snake, bone pins of various sizes, terracotta and stone beads, iron nails, knives, etc.

Period III (first century A.D.) is represented by diverse burial practices. The burials, hitherto unknown in the region, are post-cremation and consist of: (i) cist burial; (ii) urn-cum-pit burial; (iii) pit-burial; and (iv) double urn-burial. The material unearthed from these burials included terracotta animal figurines, cast copper coins and bone pieces, besides the ceramic industry represented by red ware of medium to coarse fabric. The notable types are miniature jars, flat-based bowls, cups, incurved bowls, perforated cylindrical jars, etc.

22. EXPLORATION IN DISTRICT VAISHALI.—During the course of his exploration, Shri D. P. Sinha of the Mid-eastern Circle of the Survey, discovered a number of ancient sites at Balandpur (Narainpur Buzurg), Basarh, Fatehpur Buzurg (Matia), Fatehpur-Ram (Musridin), Hassanpur Bhadwar, Imadpur (Juridih), Kanhauli Dhanraj, Karihan, Panapur Batesar, Raghuasoi, Sheikhopur and Sherpur, on the dried bed, probably of a wide canal, cut through the region in ancient times for navigation, etc., and collected black-and-red ware associated with red ware, black-slipped grey ware, black ware and N.B.P. Ware.

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23. EXPLORATION IN DISTRICTS AHMADABAD, BHARUCH, BHAVNAGAR, GANDHINAGAR, KHEDA, SURENDRANAGAR AND VALSAD.—The Department of Archaeology, Government of Gujarat, in the course of exploration in the above mentioned Districts, located the following sites. (ESA=Early Stone Age; MSA=Middle Stone Age; LSA=Late Stone Age; and H=Historical.)

District	Taluk	Village/Site	Cultural assemblage
Ahmadabad	Ahmadabad city	Sarkhej	ESA
-do-	Daskroi	Miroli	LSA
-do-	-do-	Pirana	-do-
-do-	Dehegam	Devkaran Muvada	H
-do-	-do-	Moti Pavthi	ESA, LSA
-do-	-do-	Pathadia	H
-do-	-do-	Pathodara	LSA
-do-	-do-	Vasana	-do-
Bharuch	Nandod	Hajarpar	H



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<i>District</i>	<i>Taluk</i>	<i>Village/Site</i>	<i>Cultural assemblage</i>
Bhavnagar	Umralla	Rajpipla	ESA
-do-	-do-	Tarpada	-do-
-do-	-do-	Umralla	-do-
Gandhinagar	Gandhinagar	Palej	LSA
-do-	-do-	Pethapur	-do-
Kheda	Kapadwanj	Ambaliara	LSA
-do-	-do-	Kapadwanj	MSA
-do-	-do-	Nani	-do-
-do-	-do-	Ratnakar	-do-
-do-	-do-	Sonada	LSA
Surendranagar	Chotila	Chotila	MSA
Valsad	Chikhli	Suthavad	MSA

24. EXPLORATION IN DISTRICTS BANAS KANTHA, KAIRA AND PANCH MAHALS.—Exploration by the Department of Archaeology and Ancient History of the M.S. University of Baroda, in the region around Champaner brought to light sites yielding Chinese blue and white porcelain dishes, Celadon Ware, copper vessels, bottles of brass, tin and lead foils and other objects.

25. EXPLORATION IN DISTRICT JUNAGADH.—Shri A. R. Marathe and Dr S. N. Rajaguru of the Deccan College Post-graduate and Research Institute, Pune, explored the valleys of Hiran and Shingoda. Shri Marathe collected a few Lower Palaeolithic tools in a stratified context in the cut-off trench of the dam site at Umrethi, about 23 km north of Veraval. He also located several Lower and Middle Palaeolithic workshop sites on the slopes of Sasan Gir. The tools are made on locally available rocks like basalt, dolerite, chert and chalcedony.

The detailed field study by Shri A. R. Marathe and Dr S. N. Rajaguru, of the Miliolite formation in relation to the Cretaceous-Eocene Deccan Traps and to the Late Neogene Coastal and continental formations brings out the following important aspects of the Quaternary history of the Hiran valley.

1. The basal fluvial channel gravels and overbank flood silts occur unconformably either on the Deccan Traps or on the Gaj beds of Miocene age. Lower Palaeolithic tools (pl. XIII A) occur in the buried channel gravel (35 m below the surface) at Umrethi. This buried course of the Hiran was graded to sea level 15 m below the present one.

2. The basal fluvial deposits are overlain by the Miliolite formation (I) of littoral to sub-littoral origin. It is about 25 m thick and occurs about 40 m inland from the coast and 80 m above Mean Sea Level.

3. The present streams have cut their shallow valleys in the Miliolite formation (I) and deposited channel gravels and overbank silts on or against the Miliolite. The lower fluvial deposits, particularly silts, are strongly oxidized. A few Lower Palaeolithic and a large number of Middle Palaeolithic tools have been found in association with these fluvial deposits.

4. The fluvial deposits are disconformably overlain by the Miliolite formation (II) about 3 m thick, by dead oyster beds, and beach gravels. The Miliolite (II) occurs up to 30 km inland from the coast and the dead oysters and beach gravels occur 8 to 10 km inland



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and 6 m above the Mean Sea Level. Only at one place, i.e. Prabhas Patan, the oyster bed has been dated to about 21,000 years B.P.

5. These sub-littoral formations are unconformably overlain by fluvial deposits, 2 to 5 m thick. The top surface of these deposits forms a depositional terrace surface over which Late Harappan habitational mounds occur at a few places.

6. In a region, quite close to the coast, sub-recent alluvial, coastal dunes and beach rocks are found to occur in disconformable relationship with earlier formations.

These geomorphic observations indicate that the Early Man arrived in the Hiran valley almost at the beginning of the Quaternary period. He witnessed several changes in the relationship of land and sea during this period. Even though the exact dating of the stone tools found at Umrethi is not possible at this stage, the geomorphic evidence indicated that these are one of the earliest tools found so far in western India.

26. EXPLORATION IN DISTRICT KAIRA.—During the course of his exploration, Shri K. N. Momin of the Department of Archaeology and Ancient History of the M. S. University of Baroda, discovered a number of sites belonging to the Harappan culture at Changda, Khanpur, Vadgam Kanewal and Valotur in Cambay Taluk and Nar in Petalad Taluk.

Amongst these sites, Vadgam Kanewal (pl. XIII B) is the largest settlement, measuring 300x100 m with a cultural deposit of 2.50 m. Pottery collected from the site included plain and painted red ware, buff ware, crude incised black ware and crude incised red ware. The types are dish-on-stand, coarse and carinated plain and painted bowls, stud handle bowls, pedestalled bowls, goblets, basins, *lotas*, high-necked vases, vases of different sizes and storage jars of different sizes. The pottery has strong affinities with materials from Lothal A and B and Rangpur II A, IIB and IIG periods. Besides pottery, terracotta triangular cakes and sling balls were also collected. The study of the bones collected indicates the existence of rhinoceros, neelgai, deer and other groups of animals.

The site at Nar, with a deposit of 2.50 m, indicates an early historical settlement, represented by crude black and red and mica wares, overlying the Harappan occupation.

A number of microlithic or Late Stone Age sites were also discovered during the exploration of the region.

27. EXPLORATION IN DISTRICT PANCH MAHALS.—During the course of his exploration, Shri V. H. Sonawane of the Department of Archaeology and Ancient History, M. S. University of Baroda, discovered a number of Late Stone Age settlements in rock-shelters in the vicinity of Tarsang village in Shehra Taluk of the District.

One of the rock-shelters, situated on the northern face of the Maheshvari hill, is about 14 m long and 5 m broad. On the ceiling of the shelter, traces of paintings in red colour are visible. Microlithic tools such as scrapers, lunates, blades, cores and waste flakes were collected from the shelter. Besides, one chopper, two handaxes, one round scraper, one broken unfinished ring-stone and one grinding stone with fine deep grooves were found on the western slope of the hill.

On the southern side of the Maheshvari hill two more rock-shelters were located. In one of these shelters, paintings in red colour are seen on the ceiling. The painted motifs consist of concentric circles joined by lines and filled triangles.

Another rock-shelter, situated on the north-eastern side of Tarsang, also showed traces of paintings and yielded microlithic tools. The fifth rock-shelter, found between the



villages Tarsang and Rena, in a small granite hillock, yielded microlithic tools, cores and flakes.

27. EXCAVATION AT CHAMPANER, DISTRICT PANCH MAHALS.—The Department of Archaeology and Ancient History of the M. S. University of Baroda resumed (1973-74), excavation at Champaner, with a view to understanding the life-pattern of the affluent section of the society in the fifteenth-sixteenth century A.D.

The excavation in the area, marked by compound walls, revealed the existence of residential blocks, gardens, tank, stables, water channels, etc., showing five structural phases. The occupation of the area seems to cover a century or so within which the material culture was found to have remained the same. The details of the structures are as follows.

Residential Area.—The area had four types of residential structures: (i) structure with lime-concreted courtyard around it; (ii) structure with courtyard in front of it; (iii) structures built around central courtyard; and (iv) structures at the place which was used for different purpose earlier. Only one structure of type (i), having twelve rooms, six on ground-floor and six on the first floor was exposed. Of type (ii) many structures were encountered. Often the lime-concreted courtyard in front had basins for plants. A sub-type in this variety had no lime-concrete flooring in the courtyard. This is a very late development in the area. Of type (iii) houses, the central courtyard with lime concrete had units of single room, two rooms or three rooms around it. This type is found outside the innermost compound and is possibly intended for servants. Type (iv) houses have two sub-types, (a) structure with courtyard in front of it and (b) a single room unit with a part of earlier walls and a part of newly-constructed walls. This sub-type did not have lime-concreted courtyard. Stratigraphically and structurally they represent the last phase of occupation.

Garden Complex.—The garden complex was near the residential areas. They are of two distinct types: (i) a small garden in front of the house (pl. XIV A); and (ii) a large complex near the house. The former type is divisible into two sub-types: (a) rectangular or square concrete flooring with space for plant basins; and (b) the plant basins running parallel to the main wall. In the former sub-type, water was supplied through sub-channels. Such gardens are laid either at the entrance or in front of the house. The largest garden of this sub-type has ten plants and the smallest has only two. Stratigraphically and architecturally this is the earlier type. In the second sub-type, the area between the main wall and the plant basins has flooring laid in lime concrete. The watering of the plants was probably made by manual labour. This sub-type is a later development on the site. The large garden complex of type (ii) is also divisible into two sub-types: (a) having running water-channels on aqueducts, rectangular *hauz* and many sub-channels, with the area for plants on one side of the garden; and (b) a central lime-concrete flooring, with octagonal canopied *hauz* and water channels on aqueducts and the space for plants all round. The water channel near the *hauz* was constructed in volutes, in which inlets and outlets were different, for producing whirlpool effect (pl. XV A).

Hauz.—Three types of *hauzes* were exposed: (i) square *hauz* with three steps on all sides and a flat bottom; (ii) rectangular *hauz* with flat bottom and a small square pit on one side which was later filled up and its floor painted with a border of red and yellow checks and a decorated medallion; and (iii) octagonal *hauz* having two sub-types: (a) with steps on four sides and bottom in two stages, of which the lower one having a small square pit (pl. XV B); and (b) having octagonal sides sloping towards the bottom to form a bowl-shaped narrow bottom with two sides having narrow steps flushed with the slope.



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Tanks.—They are of two types: (i) small rectangular tank for storing water; and (ii) large rectangular tank with limestone slabs and limestone pillars fixed in the floor. This was probably for animals.

Water drains.—The main drain in the residential area runs north to south and the sub-drains on the periphery of the area join the main one at right angle (pl. XIV B). The water from inside the rooms was drained out from a hole, provided in the walls, to small drains which spilled water either inside the compound or outside it. The rain-water drains are open channels usually outside the house or at the end of the courtyard.

Soak pits.—They are of two types: (i) ring-well with four rings built near the southern garden; and (ii) jars of two sub-types; (a) a small cylindrical jar placed in the ground outside the house to collect water coming from the house; and (b) large inverted jar fixed in the ground and connected with water place.

Latrines.—They are broad U-shaped small structures in a series with small platforms in between the rows to keep water jars. They are found invariably near the water drains. They are either built by the side of the house or in a corner of the garden.

Stable.—A large stable with small sandstone pillars fixed to stone bases by mortise and tenon joint technique was exposed in a rectangular structure built of brick, stone and rubbles. Horse droppings were collected from the black clay flooring.

The ceramic industry of the period is dominated by plain and burnished, sometimes decorated, red and black wares and handmade jars. The shapes are mostly utilitarian. The table ware is represented by neatly-made and well-polished small *lotas* and bowls with stand besides glazed pottery. Water pots for hen and birds are noteworthy. A glazed ware showing a white sandy friable fabric looks almost like an imitation of porcelain ware. Imported pottery is represented by Chinese porcelain and Celadon Wares.

Terracotta objects are represented by pallets, horses, elephants, tigers, etc. Besides, specially made lamp-trees, lamp-finials, etc., are noteworthy. Stone objects include rotary querns, flat querns, boat-shaped *khals*, etc., and carnelian rings with signets, beads, balls and pallets. Iron objects consist of nails, swivels, chains, lamps, pans, arrowheads, caltrops, and copper rings, chains, antimony rods, coins, etc. Only one object of silver viz., a ring was recovered.

29. EXCAVATION AT KARVAN, DISTRICT VADODARA.—Shri W. H. Siddiqi, assisted by Sarvashri S. Ananda Sastry and N. M. Ganam, of the Western Circle of the Survey, excavated the site Karvan or Kayavarohana, with a view to ascertaining the cultural sequence of the site, which is associated with Lakulisa, the founder of Pasupata School of Saivism.

The excavation in the southern part of the mound revealed a series of rectangular or square box-like brick structures, filled with rammed earth and brick-bats. The structures showed four structural phases. The structures of Phase 4 were found to be built with bricks of earlier phases. The bricks generally measured between 39 to 43 cm in length, 26 to 28 cm in breadth and 7 to 8 cm in thickness. The size of the bricks was larger in the lower levels. The structure was probably used for religious purposes.

The digging in the central part of the mound exposed a wall (pl. XVI A) built of well-modelled and neatly-cut bricks with mouldings closely resembling the bricks used in the construction of the *stupa* at Devnimori. The wall, provided with a 2.20 m wide entrance gateway which was closed at a later stage (pl. XVI B), enclosed a group of structures, now only partly exposed. This wall, with bricks of 35x23x6 cm and 36x24x6 cm, overlies an earlier wall with bricks of size of 41 x 25 x 7 cm built clumsily on the natural soil



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(pl. XVII A). A brick-laid central quadrangle with soakage jars and drain was also exposed (pl. XVII B).

Among the ceramics, mention may be made of an ill-fired red ware with a reddish creamy surface having impressions of a series of stylized swans of pre-Gupta period, which later became an oft-repeated symbol in the sculptural art of the early medieval period. Important antiquities recovered in the excavation are iron nails and bolts, copper coins of the Kshatrapa and Maitraka periods, tribal coins, a spherical gold bead, a ring with ruby set in the centre and small diamonds on either sides (pl. XVIII A) and terracotta beads, mostly of areca-nut shape and bullae (pl. XVIII B). A unique find is a four-armed Vishnu in terracotta, obtained from a layer ascribable to the fourth century A.D. The peculiar head-gear which is in its incipient stage of *kirita* strongly resembles an Iranian or Central Asian cap. A similar one in yellow schist (pl. XVIII C), though badly weathered, was also recovered from the same layer.

HARYANA

30. EXCAVATION AT RAJA KARNA-KA-QILA, DISTRICT KURUKSHETRA.—In continuation of the last year's work (1973-74), the Department of Ancient Indian History, Culture and Archaeology of the Kurukshetra University, under the direction of Dr U. V. Singh, assisted by Drs Silak Ram, S. B. Singh, S. P. Shukla and Shri G. B. Sharma, resumed excavation at Raja Karna-Ka-Qila.

The excavation in the year under review was confined to the low and small mound located at a distance of about 200 m to the east of the main mound which was excavated last year. Six squares, measuring 6 x 6 m, were subjected to horizontal excavation with a view to ascertaining the nature of the protohistoric habitation.

The protohistoric habitation, belonging to the late phase of the Harappa culture, was found to begin right on the top of the natural soil and was 1 m to 1.50 m in thickness. A structural complex of mud-brick walls consisting of two rooms were exposed. A fire-place, refuse pit, an oven and a corn bin were encountered in the bigger room. The smaller room is almost square in plan with a small entrance on the south-east. Two structural phases were noticed. The bricks used in the structures are of the size 40 x 20 x 10 cm.

Noteworthy finds of the period included: a large number of beads of agate, crystal, faience, jasper, steatite and carnelian; a beautiful figurine of a stag in faience with a horizontal hole probably for use as a pendant; a large number of faience and terracotta bangles; and circular and triangular cakes. Besides, a complete spearhead of copper without mid-rib was also found.

The pottery of the period is characteristic of the late phase of the Harappan culture. Some of the typical mature Harappan shapes, such as perforated jars and beakers, are conspicuous by their absence. The goblet, too, seems to be very rare being represented by only three pieces of bases.

HIMACHAL PRADESH

31. EXPLORATION IN DISTRICT KANGRA.—In the course of his exploration, Shri R. P. Sharma of the North-western Circle of the Survey, discovered a late medieval *garhi* belonging to Pathania Rajputs and containing paintings of the Kangra School, comprising *Raga* and *Ragini*s and scenes from *Ramayana* and Krishna-lila at Damtal near Pathankot. The paintings belong to the nineteenth century A.D.



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EXPLORATIONS^a AND EXCAVATIONS

32. EXPLORATION IN DISTRICT NAHAN.—In the course of his exploration Shri R. P. Sharma of the North-western Circle of the Survey, discovered an early medieval site at Mirpur Kotla, 8 km from Amb, on the Nahan-Chandigarh road. The site yielded Siva *lingas*, Nandi and structural remains, like door-jamb and lintels, all belonging to *circa* A.D. 900

KARNATAKA

33. EXCAVATION AT VADAGAON-MADHAVAPUR, DISTRICT BELGAUM.—In continuation of the last year's work (1973-74, pp. 16-17), excavation was resumed by the Departments of Kannada Research Institute and Ancient Indian History and Epigraphy of the Karnataka University, Dharwar, under the direction of Dr A. Sundara.

In Site 2, a trench measuring 9 x 9 m was laid on the eastern side of the brick structure exposed last year, with a view to tracing out the eastern extension of the structure. The digging to a depth of 2 m yielded three layers, assignable to the late Satavahana period, distinguished on the basis of red ware in profusion, black-and-red ware, two potin coins and three beads of lapis-lazuli, carnelian and glass.

In Site 1, where a baked-brick wall of two courses was exposed in a trench, an area measuring 45 x 10 m was subjected to further digging with a view to exposing the complete structure. The excavation revealed a wall of two phases built with reused bricks, running 33 m east-west and slightly curved wall of single brick-width projecting from its northern face. This later wall, encompassing a large area, is the biggest among the ones so far exposed. The structures may be dated to the first three centuries of the Christian era as they are found in the topmost layers along with the Satavahana coins.

Noteworthy antiquities, besides pottery and beads of usual types, comprise: potin coins of bow and arrow type; a terracotta figurine of a standing man with right hand probably in *abhaya-mudra* and upper garment running over the left shoulder comparable to standing Buddha; and another similar figurine but with *yajnopavita*.

34. EXPLORATION IN DISTRICTS BELGAUM, BIJAPUR, DHARWAR, NORTH KANARA, RAICHUR AND SHIMOGA.—During the course of his exploration, Dr A. Sundara of the Ancient Indian History and Epigraphy of the Karnataka University, Dharwar, discovered a neolithic habitation site yielding ashy and burnished grey ware pottery at Hale Nagara in Hosanagara Taluk, District Shimoga, an early historical site and a megalithic burial site with dislocated port-holed chamber at Halshi in Khanapur Taluk, District Belgaum, early historical sites at Balligave in Shikaripura Taluk, District Shimoga, and Badami (area around the inscription of Pulakesin I) in District Bijapur, rock-paintings at Sureban in District Dharwar, and Badami.

Noteworthy among the temples and sculptures noticed and studied are: (i) the ruined Siva temple of early Kadamba period with original *Siva-linga* and a sculpture of two-armed Ganesa at Niralagi in Shikaripura Taluk; (ii) pre-medieval Adi Dhareshvara temple at Dhareshvara in District North Kanara; (in) lamp-pillar with *kubja* Yaksha, carrying lamp on the head, at the top and a panel of standing Buddha and his disciples in the middle of the pillar, probably of second-third century at Togarsi in Shikaripura Taluk; (iv) two images of standing Buddha in round relief of *circa* second-third century A.D. and another sculpture of Surya at Haigunda, and Marhishasuramardini of fifth-sixth century A.D. at Hinnur, both in Honavar Taluk, District North Kanara; and (y) sculptures of bison's head without stretched tongue, of fourth-fifth century A.D., probably meant for



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